

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently Amended*) An optical element consisting of:
a transparent insulating substrate;
a circuitry layer on the insulating substrate, said circuitry layer including an active polysilicon layer;
a plurality of pixels; and
an opaque optical shielding layer disposed to lie between the insulating substrate layer and the active polysilicon layer; wherein the opaque shielding layer shields the polysilicon layer from light incident upon the insulating substrate layer and functions to block the incident light from leaking between adjacent pixels; wherein the optical element does not include a shield above the circuitry layer that functions to block the incident light from leaking between adjacent pixels; and wherein the optical element is part of a liquid crystal display ~~and the opaque shielding layer also functions as a black matrix for said display.~~

Claim 2 (*Canceled*).

3. (*Original*) The optical element of claim 1 wherein the shielding layer comprises a material that is unaffected by exposure to temperatures up to 1,100°C.

Claims 4-23 (*Canceled*).

24. (*Previously Presented*) The optical element of claim 1, wherein the optical shielding layer is comprised of a light reflective material.

Claim 25 (*Canceled*).

26. *(Currently Amended)* The optical element of claim 1, wherein the optical shielding layer is comprised either of ~~one of~~ silicon nitride, layers of silicon oxide and silicon nitride, ~~and~~ or a refractory metal encapsulated in a suitable barrier layer.

27. *(Currently Amended)* The optical element of claim 26, wherein the refractory metal comprises ~~one of~~ either tungsten, cobalt, ~~and~~ or titanium.

28. *(Currently Amended)* The optical element of claim 26, wherein the barrier layer comprises ~~one of~~ either tungsten silicide, tungsten nitride, ~~and~~ or titanium nitride.

29. *(Previously Presented)* The optical element of claim 26, further comprising a cap over said barrier layer.

30. *(Currently Amended)* The optical element of claim 26, wherein the cap comprises ~~one of~~ either silicon oxide, silicon nitride, ~~and~~ or silicon oxynitride.

31. *(Previously Presented)* The optical element of claim 26, further comprising an adhesive layer disposed between the refractory metal and the transparent insulating substrate.

32. *(Previously Presented)* The optical element of claim 31, wherein the adhesive is comprised of a titanium/titanium nitride laminate.